

8-1941

The Rouen Post, August 1941

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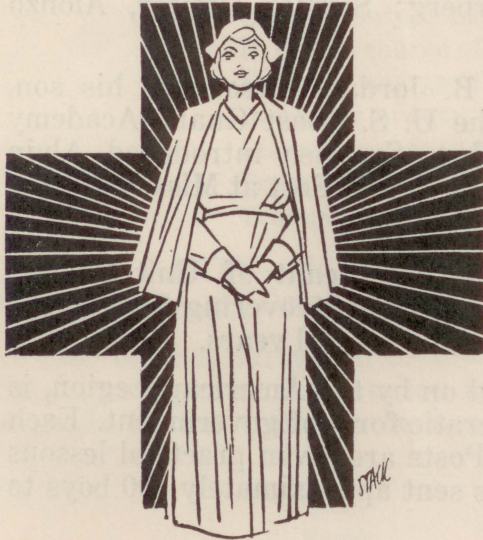
THE ROUEN POST

A PAPER DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF ROUEN POST No. 242

WILLIAM STACK

Editor

RACHEL WATKINS DIES



Miss Rachel Watkins, world traveler and a member of a prominent St. Louis family, died August 17 at the home of a brother, Horton Watkins, 1601 South Warson road, where she had been recuperating from a major operation she underwent six weeks ago at Barnes Hospital. She was 56.

Twice Miss Watkins went on extensive world cruises and she made several trips to China in her lifetime. Returning from the Orient in 1936, she brought with her as many Oriental treasures as she could handle to decorate her apartment at 8070 Watkins Drive. Her Chinese household articles included everything from delicate porcelain figurines to heavy carved imperial tables.

She was a native of Nashville, Tenn., and came to St. Louis with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William E. Watkins about 30 years ago.

Miss Watkins served as dietitian with Base Hospital Unit 21 in France.

Funeral services were held at Lupton's Chapel on Tuesday, August 19. Burial was in Oak Grove Mausoleum.

* * *

Our last message from Miss Watkins was in the latter part of June when we received the following letter:

Dear Bill:

Do you think the Unit should have a "pet" or shall we call it a hobby. I realize that you boys of Rouen Post are always doing nice things. Nevertheless will you read the enclosed booklet on the training of nurses—then think it over.

It would be such a worth-while cause if the Unit could raise—if not enough for an entire tuition—funds to help an ambitious girl through the Washington University School of Nursing. I feel a number of doctors and nurses would respond to this. What do you think? United we could help again.

If this appeals to you will you put something in the ever anticipated **Rouen Post**. With your approval we could even furnish a folder to enclose in each copy.

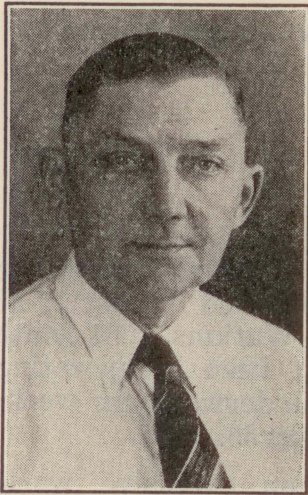
I happen to be a patient in the hospital at present. If you should care to talk with Miss Claiborne, she would be glad to hear from you.

With ever increasing admiration, I am

"SISTER" RACHEL WATKINS

THE ROUEN POST

JABLONSKY HEADS ROUEN POST



Charles Jablonsky

Charles Jablonsky, former first sergeant of Base Hospital Unit 21, was elected Commander of Rouen Post 242, at the Post's monthly meeting August 11. Other officers for the ensuing year are: 1st Vice-Commander, Willard McQuoid; 2nd Vice-Commander, Justin Jackson; 3rd Vice-Commander, Mae Aurbach Gluck; Adjutant, William Engel; Finance Officer, Ritchey Williams; Historian, William Stack; Sergeant-at-Arms, James Sallee; Chaplain, Jules Silberberg; Service Officer, Alonzo Kelly.

Past Commander George H. B. Jordan, introduced his son, Alvin, second year cadet in the U. S. Coast Guard Academy at New London, Conn. Jordan, Sr. also introduced Alvin Schneider, who was sponsored by Rouen Post at Missouri Boys' State at Fulton, Mo. in June

Joe Welsh, another former first sergeant of Unit 21 was present for his first meeting since May, 1938. Welsh is slowly recovering from a case of multiple neuritis that has confined him to his home for several years.

Boys' State, one of the Americanism programs carried on by the American Legion, is a realistic demonstration of the workings of a democratic form of government. Each year thousands of boys sponsored by various Legion Posts are given practical lessons in local and State government. Missouri Legion Posts sent approximately 400 boys to the meeting at Fulton.

THE BARD OF OBLONG

The June meeting of Rouen Post was marked by the presence of Horace Barker of Oblong, Illinois. Barker, cemetery caretaker, horticulturist, and crossroads philosopher has recently turned to the writing of verse. Barker's poetry is the song of humble things—of the homely and every day aspects of the life about him. Some evening at twilight, as the deep-throated whistle of No. 80 dies on the breeze and drowsy tinklings lull the distant folds, the former lance-corporal may be moved to compose a sonnet in commemoration of the days he served as Spencer Allen's guard in General Hospital 12. The thought of that proud spirit engaged in compulsory sanitary chores should furnish a theme worthy of the prairie poet's prolific pen.



"Spindley" Allen and I remember still
How I stalked at his heels with a right good will
And the G. I. cans that were full until—
But we don't talk about that . . .



THE ROUEN POST

Orders by Major Borden S. Veeder, Medical Corps, U. S. A., Commanding No. 12 (St. Louis, U. S. A.) General Hospital. Oc. 25, 1918.

Field Officer of the day, today,	Capt. Thomas
Field Officer of the day, tomorrow	Capt. Rainey
Officer of the day, today	Lt. Bell
Officer of the day, tomorrow	Lt. Gay
Train Officer of the day, today	Lt. Fisher
Train Officer of the day, tomorrow	Capt. Bierkamp
Clerk on duty, today	Pte. Leigh
Clerk on duty, tomorrow	Pte. 1/C Nowell
N. C. O. in charge of quarters, today,	Cpl. Lodge
N. C. O. in charge of quarters, tomorrow	Sgt. Severy
Dispenser on duty, today	Sgt. Simpson
Dispenser on duty, tomorrow	Pte. 1/C Davis
Trumpeter on duty, today	Pte. Reidel
Trumpeter on duty, tomorrow	Pte. McIlvaine

CONVOY PARTY—No. 3 Convoy Party will be on duty from 7:00 p. m., October 25, 1918, to 7:00 a. m., October 26, 1918.

No man on this party will be granted a pass during his tour of duty on night convoy. The following men are detailed as Point Party, and in cases of an air raid alarm will assemble in the trenches back of the Point Hut.

Cpl. Lodge in charge

Zahn	McKinney, D. R.
Brock	Mullens
Croissant	McNeilly
Duncan	Massard
Daniels	Magidson
Foster, C. C.	Porter
Graham, J. C.	Rango
Kelly, A. P.	

STRENGTH—Miss O. A. Meyer, R. N. A. C., U. S. A., departed 23-10-18, temporary duty at No. 8 General Hospital, B. E. F.

HOSPITAL—Miss F. Kiefer, R. N., A. N. C., U. S. A., from sick in hospital to duty 24-10-18.

Miss S. Hausmann, R. N., A. N. C., U. S. A., from duty to sick in hospital 24-10-18.

Pte. L. Rango, M. D., U. S. A., from duty to sick in hospital 25-10-18.

Pte. 1/C J. S. Higgins, M. D., U. S. A., from sick in hospital to duty 24-10-18.

2692, Rifleman Thorne, R. J., 3/Rifle Bde., from duty to sick in hospital 25-10-18.

LEAVE—The following nurses returned from seven days leave in France 24-10-18.

Misses A. McColloch, M. Gray, M. Zimmerman, and E. McCulloch.

STRENGTH—Pte. 1/C J. B. Townsend, M. D., U. S. A., reported from A. E. F. for duty with this hospital and is taken on the strength accordingly.

T. G. HESTER,

1st Lieut. Sanitary Corps, N. A.

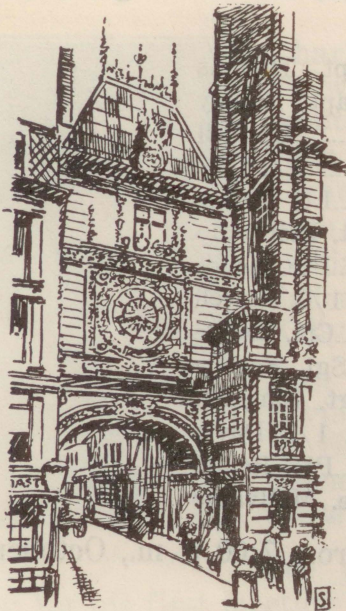
Adjutant

No. 12 (St. Louis, U. S. A.) General Hospital

THE ROUEN POST

RECOLLECTIONS OF A WORLD WAR NURSE

By Retta Snyder



Rue de Gros Horloge

We are going to have new gray uniforms. The ones the Red Cross gave us have shrunk and are falling to pieces. Mine are so tight I can scarcely wear a dress and sufficient bloomers at the same time. I went to the office yesterday and asked about dresses, more aprons and a raincoat. My new one has caught on lockers until it is in pieces. The kind that are issued are black slickers and very nice indeed. Miss Stimson says she has ordered dresses for all of us. The American Red Cross in London furnished these things. The dresses are very full and good looking with Johns Hopkins aprons, wide stiff belt, wide stiff cuffs, and regulation collars.

We were talking about Paris tonight and I said I hoped to buy a black evening gown when I go on leave and they almost fainted. Clothes other than blue serge and gray chambray are out of our ken. I probably won't have enough money to pay car fare to Paris, let alone a black velvet gown. No letters now for eight days. I'm getting anxious again.

Just back from supper. While there we heard that Miss Stimson and Connie Cuppaige have been mentioned by General Haig for valiant work. Connie was in Belgium for sometime at C. C. S. (Casualty Clearing Station) Miss Hilligas was in a French C. C. S. and Miss Davison is just back from another one.

These last ten nights have been so busy I never have a minute to rest. I should be making rounds, but the rain is pouring in sheets, and I came unprepared, so I am staying in my bell-tent until it slackens. The rain falls out of a clear sky in this country. It has been much warmer this week, quite mild and very spring-like. I even took temperatures one morning without a coat or sweater on. I could wear my white cap and look quite lady-like. The patients did not recognize me at first. I'm sure I have the seven-year itch or chats. We hear so much about chats that we all are sure we have them. It must be the wool and warm weather for I almost scratch my skin off.

Olive and I went to the city this morning and walked miles through the lovely old town. Someone had made a remark about the beautiful rose windows and the wonderful purple windows of the cathedral, and I wondered why they had not impressed me. We went in this morning and then we realized that we had always gone in late in the afternoon when it was dark. We had not even seen them. We stayed quite awhile, looking and looking. We found many old houses of plaster and beams and crooked streets too fascinating for words. The French children are adorable. We met twins we wanted to kidnap. We wandered into a courtyard and saw two tiny ones in a doorway, who smiled and flirted but would not come out.

* * *

I bought a large picture the other day that I shall always love. One of the most interesting streets in Rouen is the Rue Grosse Horloge (street of the large clock.) It is a quaint, narrow lane that connects two of the principal shopping streets. Near the Rue Joan d'Arc is a large clock built in an arch that covers the street. On one side is a small fountain which is really only a water faucet where the natives come for water with their pitchers. The picture is of this clock and the fountain, with soldiers in the street, English officers and privates, an Australian, a Frenchman, East-Indian cavalymen, Scots in kilts, but no Americans. It was made before we came.

(To be continued)

ROUEN POST No. 242
514 COMMERCIAL BLDG.
ST. LOUIS, MO.

In the August issue of The Rouen Post is a letter written by Miss Rachel Watkins, shortly before she passed away, suggesting a worth-while cause—that of assisting an ambitious girl thru Washington University School of Nursing.

Rouen Post invites former members of the Unit to comment on Miss Watkins' idea. A favorable response would be a tribute to one of our best loved comrades.

W. E. Engel.
